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OBSERVER DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

TO THE 40TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

GENEVA, 23 FEBRUARY 1984.

Mr. Chairman,

Speaking for the first time in this Commission, my Delegation wishes to extend its congratulations to you on your election. With your demonstrated diplomatic skill and your expertise in the field of human rights, we are convinced that you will lead the Commission to a successful conclusion of its session. Out felicitations likewise go to the other members of the Bureau.

Mr. Chairman,

It is with considerable reluctance that my Delegation takes the floor to respond to the distorting statements and wilful representation made by certain speakers in connection with the question of East Timor. We were a bit surprised to hear Mr. Da Costa Lopes, the former Apostolic Administrator of Dili, speaks on behalf of Pax Christy, for we were not aware when he joined this non-governmental organization which has so distinguished itself with the persistent anti Indonesia record of defamation. However, it is not important for whom Mr. Da Costa Lopes speaks, whether it is for Pax Christy or for the Fretilin, for what he had to say is the same standard fare of contorted arguments, misinterpretation of facts and unsubstantiated allegation which we have been hearing now for so many years from the same group of people, bent on maligning Indonesia in international fora.

Mr. Lopes purported to give a short history of events leading to the ultimate integration of East Timor into Indonesia. But as is customary, when Indonesia's detractors try to describe that history, they conveniently forget or glossover the most pertinent factors and development in

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that historical overview. He mentioned briefly the civil disturbances in 1975 which led to the Portuguese abandoning the island, but did not bother to explain what was the reason of the civil war.

As we have on many occasions pointed out, the civil war broke out in East Timor in 1975 because one party among the five political parties then created after the 1974 revolution in Portugal, the Fretilin, openly aided and encouraged by elements within the Portuguese colonial administration, try to seize power by force of arms rather than through democratic methods and by unleashing terror and cold-blooded massacres. This was the same party which consistently refused to participate together with the other parties in an orderly and democratic process of decolonization before the civil war. This was the same party which on November 1975 unilaterally declared independence without even bothering to create a semblance of a democratic process for ascertaining the true wishes of the people.

Mr. Lopes correctly stated that five parties were created in East Timor in 1974 : UDT, APODETI, KOTA, TRABALHISTA and FRETILIN. By Portugal's own admission and as recognized by unbiased observers, the UDT is the largest among the five parties, since it had the support of 230 of the 472 existing sukus (clans) in East Timor. Hence, in combination with the APODETI, KOTA and TRABALHISTA, they clearly represented the overwhelming majority of the people of East Timor,and not the Fretilin as suggested by Mr. Da Costa Lopes and also by the distinguished Delegate from Mozambique. They resisted the bloody reign of terror of the well-armed Fretilin, and at the end opted for independence through integration with Indonesia. Mr. Chairman, I could furnish the Commission with more details of the background of the different parties and the train of tragic events that unfolded in East Timor long before Indonesia was

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drawn into the fray. But the point we want to make is that an act of self-determination has taken place in East Timor. The entire process of decolonization of East Timor has been conducted in accordance with the traditional democratic practices of East Timorese people, and in compliance with resolution 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and 2625 (XXV), witnessed at every stage by scores of foreign diplomats and international media representatives, and culminating in the formal promulgation into law of the statute of integration by the President of Indonesia on July 17, 1976.

It is pertinent to recall that Indonesia had always shown very great restraint since the process towards decolonization of East Timor was started after the change in the Portuguese regime in 1974. Portugal and Indonesia had had a series of consultations in order to contribute to the peaceful process of decolonization of East Timor. The then Foreign Minister of Indonesia Mr. Adam Malik stated before attending one of these consultative meetings held in Rome on 1 November 1975, that it was hoped that Portugal would move ahead with the decolonization process as swiftly as possible, instituting self-government in the territory in November 1975 and providing for a referendum in 1976 so that the people could decide on the future political status of the territory, in accordance with the plan for decolonization announced by Portugal in July 1975. Indonesia has thus never had ambition to annex East Timor as alleged. The suggestion that Indonesia has a territorial ambition against its neighbours is, to say the least, absurd.

Mr. Lopes lamented the fact that an increasing number of states have failed to recognize the right to self-determination of the people of East Timor because of "commercial links" with Indonesia. May I point out to him that Indonesia have received

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massive support from Asian countries apart from a great number of Latin American countries and increasing number of African countries. They are developing countries that have no substantial investment in Indonesia, let alone "commercial links" as suggested by him. The reason for the increase in the number of states supporting the position of Indonesia is simply a better knowledge of the real situation in East Timor, and the overwhelming support to integration as expressed through democratic means.

Mr. Chairman,

We were truly astonished to hear Mr. Lopes stating and I quote "The Timorese people are Melanesians, while the Indonesians are Javanese" unquote. Such a ridiculous and patently false statement can perhaps be forgiven if it came from someone outside our region,but not from a Timorese. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Lopes knows full well, Indonesia is a multi-ethnic nation. Within its length and breadth, it encompasses a mozaic of racial and ethnic groups, mostly of Malayan-Polynesian-Melanesian stock, but also comprising millions of Chinese, Arab, Indian and European ancestry. Thus he suggests that the people in West Timor inhabiting the same island, speaking the same languages and dialects as their brothers across a colonialy imposed artificial border are of different ethnic origin ? And what about the inhabitants of the surrounding Indonesian islands such as Flores, Sumba, Sumbawa, Wetar. Are they all Javanese ? Indonesia is proud, Mr. Chairman, that its nationhood is not based on racial considerations, and Indonesia is proud of its long record of anti all forms of racial discrimination. If I may suggest to Mr. Da Costa Lopes, let us not inject quasi racial overtone. Let us remember that this dangerous notion that would determine nationhood predominantly on the basis of race was finaly put

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to rest some 40 years ago, although not before trigerring a world war.

It is true that since 1976 the Indonesian central government has chanelled substantial development funds to the people of East Timor. In fact since many years the new province of East Timor received per capita development budget that is among the highest in the country. The reason for this is quite simple and straight forward. After having suffered 400 years of colonial rule and after having opted for integration with Indonesia, the Indonesian people as a whole, together with their brothers and sisters in East Timor are only dutibound to accelerate development in the province and to allow the people of East Timor to catch up with the other Indonesians, politically, economically, culturally and spitirually. Therefore, to insinuate that the development efforts serve no other purpose than to deflect attention from human rights abuses is both naive and extremely cynical.

Mr. Chairman,

The spokesman for Pax Romana went even further in trying to heap all kinds of sinister motivation and completely baseless accusations towards Indonesia. He painted a horrible picture of famine, killing, torture, rape, corruption as pertaining to East Timor. Really Mr. Chairman, this is a repeated rehashing of the same well known delegations as we have said on many occasions before. If even half of this charges were true, would it not be reasonable to expect that the representatives of many prestigious international organizations operating in East Timor such as the UNICEF, UNHCR, ICRC, The Catholic Relief Services, some of them have been there constantly since 1979, would have reported such an alarming situation. The facts of the matter are however, that the

findings of the United Nations bodies completely belie such a portrayal. I shall therefore not tire this Commission with a point by point rebuttal of what the Pax Romana has dished up again. Their ridiculous allegation on the Indonesian language being forced on the East Timorese, the sinister and vicious contortion of a torture manual etc. has all been responded before, here, in New York and in Jakarta.

The Distinguished Delegate of Zimbabwe has regrettably made the same well-worn allegations towards Indonesia such as the discrepancy in the total population of East Timor before and after the integration, leading to his own conclusion that one-third of the population has vanished. Again, my Delegation has no intention to response to that kind of allegations which in fact is none other that an exercise in statistical juggling, since we already did in the Commission last year.

As to the accusation that Indonesia does not give access to humanitarian agencies, I wish to invite our distinguished colleague from Zimbabwe to consult the relevant facts about the matter. I have earlier mentioned about the humanitarian activities of prestigious international organizations in East Timor since 1979.

The Indonesian Government has always made serious effort to ensure the continuation of the humanitarian aids. One example of this commitment is the new understandings reached with the ICRC which will facilitate further the activities of the ICRC in the main island of East Timor and on the island of Atauro, including protection activities, relief/aid activities, tracing and mailing.

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Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Da Costa Lopes in his statement said that he thought he knew what the East Timorese people really wanted in the way of self-determination. In saying so he conveniently ignores the fact that in 1976 the overwhelming majority of the people have expressed their will to decolonize themselves through determining integration with Indonesia. I have already explained that the process of self-determination has taken place in 1976. By participating freely, fully and equally in all respect in the national election of Indonesia in 1982, the people of East Timor have again shown what they really wanted in their heart. To continue to insist on a so-called "genuine and completely free act of self-determination" now - something which the Fretilin never bothered to think about, let alone to undertake, when they unilaterally proclaimed independence in 1975 - can therefore be seen as a thinly veiled attempt at trying to achieve for Fretilin what they failed to achieve with the reign of terror in 1975. Indonesia as a nation with a cherished tradition of anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism, as an initiator of the Bandung Conference and a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, does not require any lessons from anyone or any country as to what the true essense of decolonization and self-determination is. Indonesia therefore shall never sacrifice the fundamental rights and desires of the overwhelming majority of the people of East Timor to genuine freedom, in dignity and in spiritual and material well being for the sake of self-serving interests of a few political adventurers.

In conclusion, to all friends and to our detractors alike and to all those who profess to champion the interest and wellfare of East Timorese people as a whole, those

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defenders of the principles of self-determination and of respect for the views of the majority, yet who continue to support the misguided obsession of the few, we would like to suggest, please consider the facts rather than persist in fiction and fantasy. Assess the historical process, the geo-political and socio-economic realities pertinent to the East Timor issue. Than you may be able to accept the truth that the people of East Timor have chosen, have determined their fate and that decolonization in East Timor has already taken place.

I thank you.

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